



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2026

Present: Pastor Ben Sandin, Terri Revell, Morgan Holle, Allison Isenberg, Melissa Johnson, Rebecca Nygren, Julie Lent

Absent: Rachel Henderson

Call to Order: Terri called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Opening Devotion: Allison led us in devotions/prayer

Adoption of the Agenda: Terri requested to add Staff and Council retreat under New Business. Terri made a motion to adopt the addended agenda. Rebecca seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Completed via email on September 4: Julie made a motion to approve minutes from the August 19, 2026 council meeting. Rebecca seconded the motion. Motion carries.

New Business

Screens in Sanctuary: Pastor Ben discussed using a company from Brainerd that he has used previously (and who has also done A/V work for national gatherings). Pastor Ben is hearing about the poor quality of the screens in the sanctuary. Rachel received a quote from this company for \$30,000. Proposed that we announce September 27 that we are collecting funds for this. Melissa made a motion that council approves soliciting worship-dedicated funds for the purpose of purchasing new screens; \$10,000 for down payment will be paid when that much money is received. Morgan seconded. All agree; motion carries.

Proposal for tree stump removal: Proposal received for \$1750 to remove 7 tree stumps. Julie will solicit one more bid; will discuss again in October.

Building Usage

Room approval forms: Terri reminded council members that there is a form to fill out if anyone wants to rent a room in the building. Terri asked at-large council members to discuss this with their team leads to ensure they understand this. Nate maintains the calendar and needs to know who is renting what room/when and to avoid conflicts.

Renters using space not rented: Need to ensure that renters are only using the spaces that they have rented. The Executive Team approved a security deposit of \$500 for any organizations outside of the church that rent space. Please ensure doors are not propped open at any time.

Discussion on allowing beer on church property: Julie brought this topic for discussion for future fundraising opportunities, community events, etc. and has spoken with congregation members about this. Pastor Ben proposes not just tying beer to fundraising events, but allowing it for church events that are not fundraisers. Propose changing policy wording to “The serving, consumption, or use of alcoholic beverages on church property, including outdoor courts and parking lots is not permitted unless pre-approved by church council.” Julie made a motion to approve this change to the “Policies and Procedures for the Use of Facilities” document; Melissa seconded. All in favor; motion carries. Allison will create a form that needs to be filled out for anyone requesting this and send to council for review/approval. Allison will email Nate to notify him of the changing in wording of the policy.

Listening Campaign from Pastor Ben: Pastor Ben referred to his report for discussion. He will share what he has heard after the September 27 service.

Fall Festival plans and budget: Katie requested a budget from council for this event. Terri will discuss with Rachel the amount that is in the budget for this event and will provide this information to Katie.

Staff and Council Retreat: Will be held Saturday November 14 from 9 am-1 pm, potentially off-site. Will provide more details on location as the time gets closer.

Old Business

Update on Fire Alarm System: Morgan reported on the Fire Alarm System. He received an updated proposal of \$60,830 to replace our obsolete fire system and adding required items to the daycare area. 50% down is required prior to work completed. Council is requesting that the company meet with the fire marshall to ensure the work to be completed is satisfactory. Rebecca made a motion to move forward with the work once funds become available through refinance of the mortgage; Julie seconded. All in favor; motion carries.

Update on mortgage: Should be signed this week.

Update on keys: Rachel is almost done installing the locks and has been working to distribute keys as appropriate.

REPORTS

Executive Team Reports:

Treasurer's Report

MONTH	Actual	Budget	Favorable/	Actual	Favorable/
General/Building Fund:	Aug-26	Aug-26	(Unfavorable)	Aug-25	(Unfavorable)
Offerings/Receipts	56,589	37,519	19,070	40,185	16,404
Expenses	(53,046)	(54,573)	1,527	(51,024)	(2,022)
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$3,543	(\$17,054)	20,597	(\$10,839)	\$14,382

		Budget			Prior Year
YEAR TO DATE	Actual	Budget	Favorable/	Actual	Favorable/
General/Building Fund:	Aug-26	Aug-26	(Unfavorable)	Aug-25	(Unfavorable)
Offerings/Receipts	390,774	394,531	(3,758)	371,383	19,391
Expenses	(421,827)	(445,848)	24,022	(432,760)	10,934
Net Gain/(Loss)	(\$31,053)	(\$51,317)	\$20,264	(\$61,378)	\$30,325

Notable August Activity:

- **For the month of August**, receipts were higher than expenses.
 - Total offering for the general/building fund for the month was \$34,426. This was higher than budget by \$3,748.
 - Other income (building use, grants, interest, etc.) was \$22,163. This was higher than budget by \$15,322. Significant funds came from memorials this month.
 - Expenses are favorable to budget this month, and favorable to prior year.
- For **August year to date**, receipts are lower than expenses, resulting in a YTD loss of \$31,053.

- Total offering for general/building fund YTD is \$274,600. This is lower than budget by \$15,933
- Other income YTD is \$116,173. This is higher than budget by \$12,174.
- Expenses are favorable to budget YTD and favorable to prior year.
- Unrestricted cash balances available at the end of August were \$30,099

Pastoral Report:

Pastor Ben's Report

Special Events: There are several big events on the schedule in the next month. Many thanks to those who helped make the Volunteer Celebration Day a big success. People really enjoyed the meal, fellowship, and being recognized for their service. The POP pint glass also received good reviews. September 20th is my installation and the committee has been hard at work getting everything in place. Some of my family will be attending so we look forward to another celebratory day. Also, mark your calendar for October 10 for the Fall Festival Katie is organizing.

Lectionary Bible Study: We met for the first time last week and had a great conversation. All are welcome to attend on Thursdays at 9:30am. Each week is a stand-alone session focusing on the scriptures assigned for the upcoming Sunday.

Listening Campaign Debrief: While I am still meeting with some folks for their 1-1, I am ready to share what I have heard on September 27 after worship. Some things have already been put in motion, but other opportunities for ministry and mission will arise from this and other conversations.

Stewardship: The stewardship team met earlier this month and will meet again next week. We are finalizing our theme and will line up speakers to share during worship. Commitment Sunday is now November 15, as the previous date conflicted with All Saints and Confirmation Sundays.

Vacation: I will be traveling from September 29 to October 7. Pastor Heidi will preach and lead worship and Nate will cover the lectionary bible study on October 1. I will also secure pastoral coverage for emergencies.

Ministry Team Reports:

Music: Alys is practicing music for Pastor Ben's Installation, and planning music for the rest of September and October. Choir and Bell Choir has started and would love more members! John did a ministry moment on Sunday 9/13 for choir.

Quilters: Unable to lock the space they use for their cart; they did notify Nate

Staff Reports

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILY MINISTRY - SEPTEMBER 2026

PRAISES from PAST Events

- We had a wonderful Summer in CYF Ministry.
- DayCamp covered some great movies and discovered how to be good humans out in the world
- Middle/High School had some great service projects and wonderful fellowship events
- WAPO was once again a huge faith forming experience for our young people
- Childrens Ministry met through a variety of ways on Sunday morning

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

CYF Ministry kicks off their ministry this week (September 13th - 19th). Many of the opportunities will remain the same, while we will be adapting some other areas and adding other opportunities as well

- Childrens Ministry (3 Years Old - 5th Grade) will meet primarily on Sunday mornings during Worship. On weeks that I stay in Worship we will bring back FAITH SPACE that we introduced last year. We will also be mixing in Family Events with Parent Nights Out throughout the year
SPECIAL NOTE: There will be a "family led" Childrens Ministry component to Wednesday nights. An activity will be provided for parents to do
- Middle School Ministry (6th-8th Grade) will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00. We will also have offsite fellowship events and on-site game nights throughout the year
- High School Ministry (9th-12th Grade) will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30. Some of our time will be spent in conversation with the Middle School while other times we will be separated out. We will also be having game nights and offsite social events throughout the year

Continuing to work with Pastor Ben as certain activities/milestones/etc come up. For each one we will talk through his preferences as well as how we "typically do things"

Fall Festival - which will combine the time/energy of both Kick-Off Sunday AND Trunk-or-Treat will be on Saturday, October 10th. All rental groups have been invited to join us for that event in whatever ways they feel comfortable.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Bible Sunday is on Sunday, October 4th - Bibles will be presented during Kids Time. 2nd Graders will be invited to stay for a short Bible class after Worship

- Affirmation of Baptism is on Sunday, October 25th
- The Faith Essays are due by September 30th
- They will have their retreat on Saturday, October 3rd
- They will have their dinner/rehearsal on Sunday, October 18th
- They will do their Faith Interviews with Katie or Pastor Ben during October
- Working on creating a mailing list of College Age so that reach out to them periodically throughout the year

Next Meeting: October 21, 2026; 6 pm

Adjournment: Rebecca made a motion to adjourn. Melissa seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm